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Alumnae nominated by Obama, Northern Iowan, June 26, 2009

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The University of Northern Iowa's National Ag-Based Lubricants Center is leading the movement to go green with its Continuous Oil Recycling System, which will make the use of bio-based engine oil in diesel engines a reality.

For years researchers have stumbled over bio-based fuel's tendency to break down. NABL has taken a different approach to this issue with CORS. Instead of altering the properties of the oil, CORS technology instead cleans and recycles the oil, reusing it as fuel before it has the opportunity to break down.

"We thought rather than forcing vegetable-based oil to last in an engine for 10,000 to 15,000 miles, we would change the oil before it breaks down and replace it with fresh oil," said UNI-NABL Center Director Lou Honary. "If soybean oil or other vegetable oil can safely perform for say, 20 hours or 2,500 miles, the computerized recycling system would ensure the oil is consumed as diesel fuel before the 20 hours of performance."

The oil is contained in a reservoir. Sensors closely monitor the physical-chemical properties of the oil, determining the correct time to replace the old with the new. The old oil is then burned as fuel.

"We put the oil in the engine and, before it has a chance to break apart, we use it as fuel," Honary said. "So, we first get lubricity out of the oil, which is a lot of value, and then we get value by burning it as fuel."

The technology not only makes the use of bio-based engine lubricants like common vegetable oil possible, it also eliminates the necessity of oil changes.

"The idea is to continue to put fresh oil in there, so the engine always has fresh oil in the crankcase," Honary said.

The NABL center has been researching vegetable-based lubricants since its establishment in 1991. The CORS technology was derived from a product designed to continuously steal a small amount of engine oil for use as fuel. However, petroleum released far too many harmful emissions, which inspired NABL to research the use of vegetable-based oils with such technology.

"People have tried to do this with petroleum engine oils, but it causes emissions to get really out of hand," Honary said. "But with vegetable oil, you improve the lubricity and the engine runs better and improves the emissions."

According to Honary, subsequent versions will focus on construction and agricultural equipment, and eventually trucks and passenger cars.

**UNI Police rescue child from car**

By NIKKI DAVIDSON

On Monday night, a phone call from the public sent four officers from the University of Northern Iowa Police Department to face a situation they had little experience with in their UNI career. A two-month old infant was trapped in a locked car during one of the hottest days of the year.

According to the National Weather Service, the temperature in Cedar Falls at that time was around 88 degrees, with a heat index in the low 90s.

"I can't remember the last time something like that has happened," said UNI Police Lt. James Daily. "I can't say that this hasn't happened. But it's very rare if it's happened.

The two-month old infant was trapped in a locked car located near the soccer fields off 27th Street.

UNI Police received the call from the public at about 8:20 p.m. Monday night. They responded and found the baby in the car with the doors locked and windows rolled up. There was no one in the area that could open the car, so UNI Police broke a window and removed the baby from the vehicle. An ambulance took the baby to Covenant Medical Center where it was treated and released.

According to university representative Jim O'Connor, the parents have not been located. Of officers have not released the names of the child or parents at press time.

The vehicle was located near the soccer fields off 27th Street. Around the time the call came in, the FC Midwest Soccer Academy was hosting a camp that was not affiliated with the university, but using UNI facilities.

According to Lt. Daily, the possibility of UNI Police pressing charges against the parents is pending further investigation.